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SENATOR ERIC JOHNSON
District 1 Republican

COMMITTEES:

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PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

July 17, 2007

FILED/ACCEPTED

AUG - 1 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket #05-337 + CC Docket No. 96-45

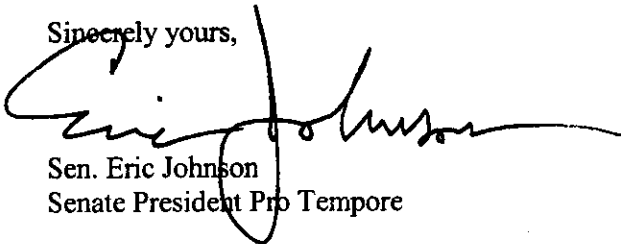
Dear Chairman Martin:

I understand that the FCC is considering placing a cap on the use of the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless service. I am not in favor of singling out wireless technology. I believe that this cap will unreasonably impact rural Americans. Limiting the use of the Universal Service Fund for wireless technology would eliminate opportunities for economic growth for rural areas. Rural Americans deserve the same access to telecom services that are available in the rest of the country.

Wireless services are necessary for rural communities for public safety and economic development purposes, as well as business and personal use. Rural communities must have access to wireless service to stay competitive in attracting good jobs for their citizens. These are the goals behind the USF. Consumers deserve and need a competitive marketplace and a cap on these funds would narrow or prevent them from making choices.

I realize there are concerns about controlling the growth of the USF. However, I respectfully request that you consider reforms that are fair and equitable to all providers and explore competitively neutral proposals to slow the USF growth, improve its accountability, and continue expanding and promoting telecom services in rural America.

Sincerely yours,


Sen. Eric Johnson
Senate President Pro Tempore

cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps, FCC
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, FCC
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, FCC
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell, FCC